<u>In the claims:</u>

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling transfer of health information along a network pathway, the method comprising:

receiving, <u>by an access server on the network pathway,</u> a request for the health information from across an internal network, the request being generated from a portable healthcare device <u>on the network pathway</u>;

immediately determining, <u>by the access server,</u> if a corresponding consent is stored, <u>wherein the consent is for a requestor of the health information to access the health information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information</u>; and

if the corresponding consent is stored, permitting, <u>by the access server,</u> the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to be obtained by a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the forwarding of the health information is to the portable healthcare device.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein if no corresponding consent is stored, further including sending a notice to the portable healthcare device.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further including receiving, <u>by the access server,</u> the appropriate consent from the portable healthcare device and permitting the

health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external

network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and

forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 4, wherein the corresponding consent is

fingerprint data, retinal data, voice data, or a digital signature data and further including

comparing the corresponding consent with stored consent data.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further including determining if consent is

required prior to the determining if a corresponding consent is stored, and if the consent is

not required, permitting the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the

request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the

remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the remote site is a pharmacy benefit

manager.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including determining, by the

access server, the suitability of a corresponding consent.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including placing, by an

interface, the request in a wrapper for acceptance by a next segment in the network pathway

towards the remote site.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further including unwrapping, by the

interface, the health information received from across and the external network.

11.   (Currently Amended) A health information access server, comprising:

a̶)̶   an internal network port to receive a request for health information from a portable healthcare device, the request issued by f̶o̶r̶ a user of the portable healthcare device;

b̶)̶   a consent database to store consents corresponding to health information;

c̶)̶   a search engine to determine if a corresponding consent is stored in the database for the requested health information, wherein the consent is for the user to access the health information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information; and

d̶)̶   a server interface to prepare the request for receipt by a next segment in the network pathway towards a remote site, and to prepare the health information sent in response from the remote site to be received by a next segment in the network pathway towards the user.

12.   (Original)   The information access server of claim 11, further including a consent analysis unit to determine the suitability of a corresponding consent.

13.   (Original)   The information access server of claim 11, further including a request identification unit to determine the appropriate remote site to receive the request.

14.   (Original)   The information access server of claim 11, further including a health information identification unit to determine what type of information is received.

15.   (Original)   The information access server of claim 11, further including an application unit to determine an appropriate software application program for the health information to be entered into.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer accessible medium having stored therein a plurality of sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by a processor, cause the system to:

process a request for the health information received from across an internal network, the request being generated from a portable healthcare device on the internal network;

immediately determine, by an access server on the internal network, if an corresponding consent is stored, wherein the consent is for a requestor of the health information to access the health information and the consent is provided by an owner of the health information; and

if the corresponding consent is stored, permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

17. (Original) The computer accessible medium of claim 16, wherein the forwarding of the health information is to the portable healthcare device.

18. (Original) The computer accessible medium of claim 16, if no corresponding consent is stored, further including additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor further cause the system to send a notice to the portable healthcare device.

19. (Original) The computer accessible medium of claim 18, if no corresponding consent is stored, further including additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor further cause the system to receive the appropriate consent

from the portable healthcare device and to permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

20.   (Original)   The computer accessible medium of claim 19, wherein the corresponding consent is fingerprint data, retinal data, voice data, or a digital signature data and further including comparing the corresponding consent with stored consent data.

21.   (Original)   The computer accessible medium of claim 16, further including additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor further cause the system to determine if consent is required and if the consent is not required, to permit the health information to be immediately acquired by sending the request across an external network to a remote site, receiving the health information from the remote site, and forwarding the health information back across the internal network.

22.   (Original)   The computer accessible medium of claim 16, further including additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor further cause the system determine the suitability of a corresponding consent.

23.   (Original)   The computer accessible medium of claim 16, further including additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor further cause the system to placing the request in a wrapper for acceptance by a next segment in the network pathway towards the remote site.

24. (Original)   The computer accessible medium of claim 23, further including

additional sequences of executable instructions, which, when executed by the processor

further cause the system to interrupt a processor to unwrap health information received from

across and external network.

25.-27. (Cancelled)